

Statewide Data Program Needs Assessment

Integrated Regional Water Management Program

Tracie Billington, Joe Yun, Zaffar Eusuff

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Program Description

The Financial Assistance Branch manages many different grant programs.

Mission Statement(s)

Financial Assistance Branch shall dedicate itself to achieving, by June 30, 2014, the goal of awarding all Proposition 84 IRWM and Proposition 1E SWFM funding to qualified projects.

Purpose Statement

The purpose of FAB is to deliver DWR financial assistance programs in a manner that:

- ❖ Results in optimal investment of state funding providing maximum benefit to the State's people and environment through improved local and regional water management
- ❖ Is transparent and provides for engagement by partner agencies, interest-based stakeholders, and the public on program development and implementation
- ❖ Is consistent with legal, legislative, and DWR policy requirements for each funding source

Financial Assistance Branch Description (from the DWR Administrative Manual)

"The Financial Assistance Branch provides financial assistance, in the form of grants or loans, to implement a wide variety of water management actions and projects under DWR's Water Conservation Bond Law Program. The following five bond laws are currently administered in whole, or in part, by the Financial Assistance Branch:

- ❖ Water Conservation Bond Law (Proposition 82)
- ❖ Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection, and Flood Protection Act Bond Fund (Proposition 13)
- ❖ Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50)
- ❖ The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)
- ❖ The Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 1E)

"The Branch develops guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Packages, solicits and reviews funding proposals, develops funding recommendations for management approval, provides technical assistance to prospective applicants, and provides outreach to the public and interested stakeholders regarding DWR financial assistance options. The Branch also develops funding

agreements, provides technical assistance to fund recipients, reviews requests and authorizes payment of submitted invoices, and is responsible for reporting program and project status and benefits. The Branch will track program and project status and benefits via the Bond Management System (BMS) database tool. The Branch is also responsible for meeting Bond Accountability reporting, transparency, and traceability obligations for the Strategic Growth Initiative Bonds (Propositions 84 and 1E)."

Links to summary reports that provide lists and descriptions of previously funded projects. We are working (but not very quickly) on a summary report for the Prop 50 IRWM Grant Program.

Prop 13 GW Summary Report

http://www.grantsloans.water.ca.gov/docs/prop13/Prop_13_Final_Report.pdf

Local GW Assistance Summary Report

http://www.water.ca.gov/lgrant/docs/AB303_Finalized_050206.pdf

Data Needs

You need to know what you want and how do you want it. The Program has a mandate to store data in statewide databases. "Statewide databases" are not defined in the law/legislation. The Program is left to figure this out, and is stuck. What databases does DWR have for data? What are the standards for each of the databases? This is a chronic problem.

A link to a list of DWR databases and data standards for each one would be good. Then the program would be able to refer people to that as a guideline, or incorporate it into their contracts.

There is no independent evaluation of the IRWM groups by the Program.

The Program gets final reports from individual grantees, but there is a question of what to do with those reports. Where to put the reports?

There is no follow-up on the contracts to see if any of the goals were really accomplished. The AB 303 groundwater program had some delivery budget, but that was the last program to do so.

You need to know what you want before you start the financial assistance program. The questions from management and the Legislature change over time. Then you are stuck trying to answer a question without the data to do so.

There was some discussion of urban water management plans. The Program needs to know if the urban water management plans are complete. The Program has to manually get this information from the Water Efficiency Branch. There is no place to look up the status of an urban water management plan. That would be very helpful.

Data Management

The California Water Plan wants, and does, a lot of data mining of the applications and grants.

Rich Juricich had a proposal to ask for annual water balances for grantees. This was a problem for many reasons. The balance would be annually, not every five years like an urban water management plan; the water balance would be by water utility, not IRWM group; after the retention is paid, the Program cannot enforce compliance.

We can think about how to nurture a long-term relationship with the IRWM groups.

Applicants want data to prepare applications. These are mostly on a watershed basis.

Unmet Needs

The Program needs the Urban Water Management Planning Program to move away from a manual process, and develop tools to make the data available.

The Program needs effective communications with other programs:

- Agricultural water management plans
- Groundwater management plans (talk to Mary Scruggs)
- Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (Prop 50)

Where to archive the applications and contracts? There are Prop 13, AB 303 and other plans. All of these take up a lot of shelf space.

Apportioning Costs

The costs for data are part of the organization.

The data programs need to show some value added.

Other Issues

Talk to Division of Dam Safety about the data they need.

If the data went away, the local organizations may be impacted. The impact depends on many factors.

The California Water Plan would like an evaluation of the IWRM plans.

The Program does not have a list of projects that other programs in the Department can access.